

[pro]master®

CHRONICLE

USER MANUAL

ENGLISH



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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your purchase of the ProMaster Chronicle tripod! Please read through this instruction guide thoroughly, even if you have operated other types of tripods before. The Chronicle's controls may be different, and it has some unique features which must be understood for safe operation.

Be sure to refer to the main parts diagram as well as each of the figures throughout the pages as you read. When a specific part of the Chronicle is referred to in green, you will find it shown on the main parts diagram and/or in the referenced figure.

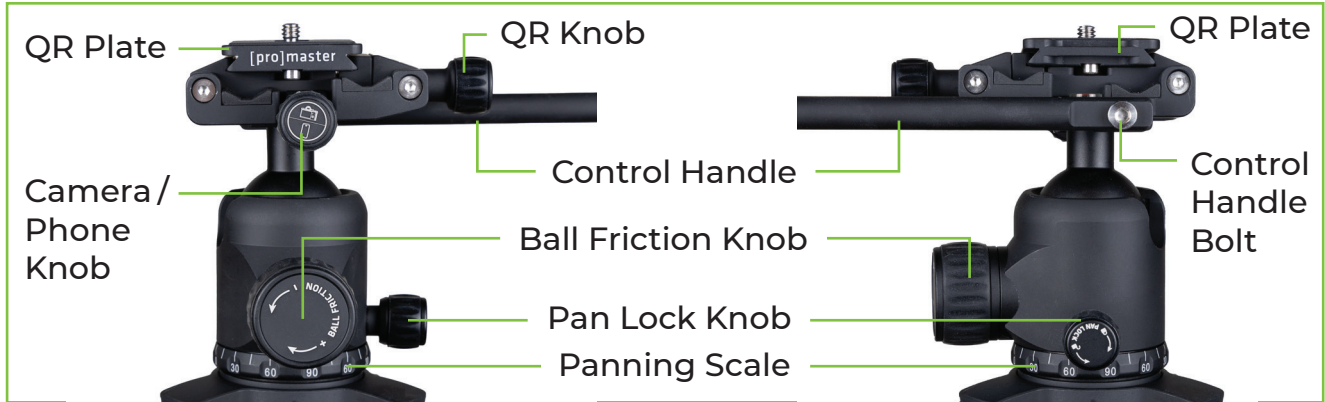
With proper operation and care, your Chronicle tripod will help tell your story for many years!

PARTS DIAGRAM



PARTS DIAGRAM

BALL HEAD



TRIPOD COLLAR

1/4"-20 Attachment Port



3/8"-16 Attachment Port



Flexor Release Knob



FLEXOR

Flexor Tube

Mini Tripod / 3-Leg Base



INITIAL SETUP

When you first unbox the Chronicle, it will be stored in its fabric bag. This bag is a great way to store and transport the tripod. It is also a good place to keep the tripod's tools, and parts which you may not be using at the time. Upon removing the Chronicle from the bag, you will find the **control handle** and **quick release plate (QR plate)** attached to the **ball head**. These items will be discussed later in this manual. Inside the bag you will notice a small compartment with a zipper. Open it to locate the included tool kit which is comprised of 3 hex wrenches in a small pouch. These hex wrenches are important for various tasks such as tightening the Chronicle's grub screws, removing or attaching the handle, and more.

After removing the Chronicle from its bag, begin by opening the tripod's legs. Take ahold of each leg, one at a time, and pull it away from the tripod's center until it stops. With all 3 legs set to their first and most basic angle position, the tripod will stand on its own.

Next, we want to make sure the grub screws are properly tightened so the **ball head** is securely attached. Loosen the **Flexor release knob** by rotating it about 1/2 turn counterclockwise and then pull up on the **ball head** to remove the entire middle assembly from the main tripod. This middle assembly is called the **Flexor**. It is comprised of 3 basic components: a **mini tripod**, the **Flexor tube**, and the **ball head**. Unscrew the **mini tripod** from the **Flexor tube**. Turn the **Flexor tube** (with **ball head** attached) upside down and peer inside. Notice two small screws: these are the grub screws which prevent the **ball head** from detaching by placing force against the **ball head's** base. Open your tool kit and take out the longest hex wrench. Use this wrench to check each grub screw to ensure it is tight. Don't overtighten the grub screws—finger tight is plenty. You can now reassemble the Flexor by attaching the **mini tripod** to the **Flexor tube** and reinstalling the assembly into the **tripod's collar**. Remember to tighten the **Flexor release knob** to hold the **Flexor** in place.

** Note, the grub screws are typically only used when removing the **ball head** or when attaching a different type of head to this tripod. Never operate the tripod or head unless the grub screws are tight.*

ATTACHING YOUR CAMERA

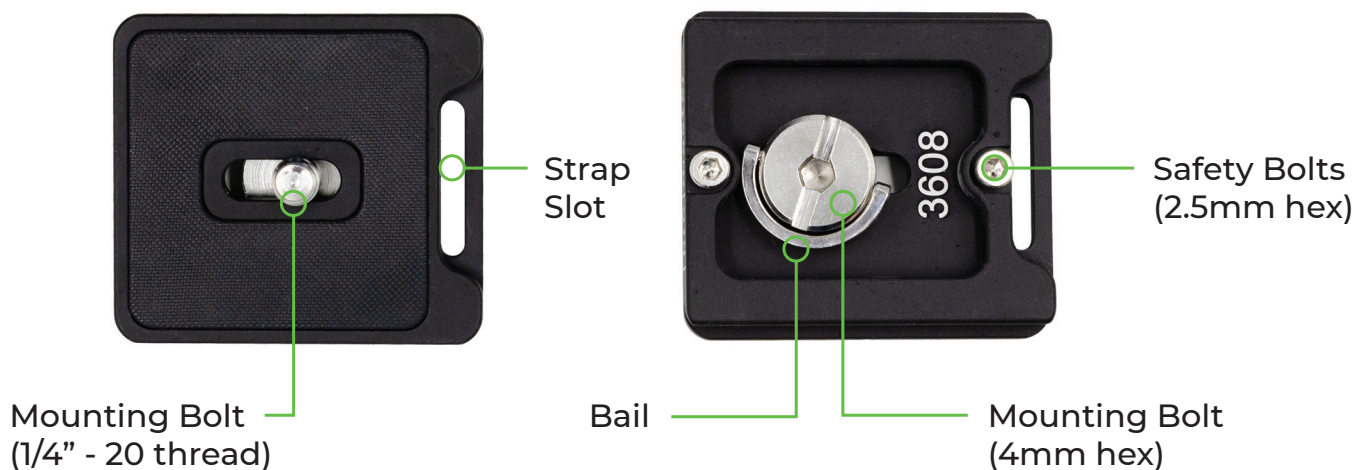
(USING THE QUICK RELEASE PLATE)

The Chronicle comes with its **ball head** set to camera mode. To learn more about how to change it to phone mode and then back to camera mode, please refer to the “Attaching Your Phone” section of this manual.

Loosen the **QR knob** on the **ball head** and remove the **QR plate**. Connect the **QR plate** to your camera by threading its **mounting bolt** into the tripod connection port located in the bottom of your camera (or lens). Use the **bail** on the **mounting bolt** to tighten the **QR plate** to your camera properly. You can also use the 4 mm hex wrench (included with the tool kit) to tighten the **mounting bolt**. Now place the **QR plate** (with your camera attached) into the top of the **ball head** and tighten the **QR knob** to hold it in place.

On the bottom side of the **QR Plate** you will notice two protruding **safety bolts**. These prevent the **QR plate** and camera from accidentally sliding off the top of the **ball head** if the **QR knob** is loosened. The **safety bolts** can be removed if you choose. Removing the bolts will allow the **QR plate** to slide into the top of the **ball head** more easily, but it will eliminate the safety feature. We do not recommend you remove the **safety bolts** from the **QR plate**.

*Note: The Chronicle's **QR plate** has an integrated **strap slot**. This slot is handy for connecting a grip strap or cross-body style carrying strap.*



ATTACHING YOUR PHONE

One of the Chronicle's premier features is its ability to switch from a camera to a phone mount in seconds without the need for any additional accessories or tools.

Before attaching a phone, you must remove your camera from the **ball head**. For safety, please **do not attempt to convert the Chronicle to phone mode with a camera attached**. The **QR plate** should never be attached to the **ball head** when converting to phone mode.

Begin by turning the **camera / phone knob** counterclockwise 180°. Notice the two icons on this knob which show a camera and a phone. The phone icon should be at the top position when this knob is turned to the proper position to accept a phone. Next, lift up on the **top platform** of the ball head. It will lift 90° and stop. Finally, flip out the **padded jaw** at the top of this assembly to complete the phone clamp. This phone clamp uses springs to gently, yet securely hold your phone in between the **padded jaws**. You can take ahold of the upper **padded jaws** and pull upward on the assembly to see how these springs work.

If your phone is particularly large, or has a large case, the jaws of the phone clamp can be widened. Do this by turning the **QR knob** counterclockwise. As you turn this knob, notice the phone clamp opens wider.

Eventually (after about 7 1/2 turns of the **QR knob**) the jaws will be at their widest point and the knob will turn no further.

Using the springs already mentioned, you can open the clamp fully to its widest possible size (3 7/8" | 9.84 cm).

When you are finished using your phone and wish to return the unit to camera mode, reverse the steps above. Be sure to turn the **camera / phone knob** 180° clockwise, so the camera icon is at the top position and the **top**



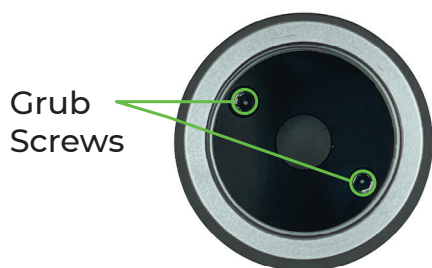
have done this please pull up gently on the **top platform** to be absolutely sure the unit is set to camera mode—it should not lift up—before attaching your camera. If the top platform lifts, as if returning to phone mode, repeat the process until you are sure it is securely set to camera mode.

REMOVING AND MOUNTING THE HEAD

You may choose to remove the included **ball head** and install a different type of head. Or, you may wish to mount the Chronicle **ball head** to a different tripod or grip item.

Begin by turning the **Flexor release knob** counterclockwise 180°. Lift the **Flexor** out of the **tripod collar**. Remove the **mini tripod** from the **Flexor tube** by unscrewing it.

Locate the included tool kit and select the longest hex wrench. Use this long hex



wrench to loosen both of the **grub screws** inside the **Flexor tube**. You can loosen these screws a few turns to be sure they are no longer making contact with the base of the **ball head**. However, do not fully remove them from the tube because they are small and easily lost.

Once the **grub screws** are loose, make sure the **pan lock knob** is tightened and then unscrew the **Flexor tube** from the base of the **ball head**. Be sure to have a good hold on the **Flexor tube** as well as the **ball head** when you separate them.

Once the **ball head** is removed, you will notice a special bolt in the middle of the platform at the top of the **Flexor tube**. If you do not see this bolt, check the bottom of the **ball head** as this bolt might have come out with it instead. This **double-sided platform screw** should be kept in the platform



on the **Flexor tube**. This screw is reversible. The larger side is a 3/8"-16 thread, which works with the Chronicle head as well as most other photographic heads. The opposite side of the screw is a 1/4"-20 thread, which is compatible with some other brands of lightweight heads. If you happen to lose this screw and need a replacement, visit your friendly neighborhood ProMaster retailer and ask for product 4014.

OPERATING THE BALL HEAD

Your Chronicle tripod kit includes a precision machined aluminum **ball head**. It is a double-action design, meaning there is a control for the ball tension and separate control for the panning motion. Each of these are explained below. The **ball head** also uses two **safety bolts** on the bottom of its **QR plate** to prevent it from sliding off accidentally. This safety feature is explained in more detail in the “Attaching Your Camera” section of this manual.

All of the knobs on this head are covered in a soft, grippy material. These covers protect your fingers from direct contact with the metal (particularly helpful in cold weather). Their pattern and grip give you a secure hold on each control for a positive, direct feel.

Panning: The Chronicle **ball head** has an independent base panning control with a **laser-engraved scale** for precise rotational movements. Loosen the **pan lock knob** and you can rotate the entire head around its base 360°.

** Please note, the **pan lock knob** is indeed a lock. It does not offer any type of tension adjustment. This head uses static drag for panning. Do not attempt to apply tension using the **pan lock knob** or you may damage the mechanism. This knob should only be set to a locked position or an unlocked position but nothing in between.*

Using the Ball Friction Knob: The largest knob on the **ball head** controls the tension of the ball and socket. When this **ball friction knob** is tightened it will lock the ball, thereby holding your camera or phone in a fixed position. When the **ball friction knob** is loosened your camera or phone’s position can be moved around via the ball and socket. This knob does allow for some tension control. This means you can adjust the knob between its fully tightened and fully loosened positions to apply varying amounts of tension. Doing this will slow down the movement of your camera or phone. Tension can also be used to help better support a heavier camera or lens.

Notice there are two **U**-shaped areas on the side of the **ball** allow the **neck** of the ball mechanism to drop in so that your camera or phone can easily achieve a vertical position, a downward position, or an upward position.



ADJUSTING LEG ANGLES

The Chronicle tripod has 3 working angles for the legs: 22°, 50°, & 80°. Each leg angle can be adjusted independently. Most of the time, you will set all 3 legs to the same angle. However, in some cases (such as uneven ground) you may choose to set the legs at different angles to achieve the best overall stability.

When the Chronicle's legs are in a closed position, meaning they are pushed together, you can simply pull on each leg until it stops in leg angle position #1 (22°). This is the most common and most used position for the tripod.

To adjust the leg angle beyond position #1, take ahold of a leg near its top. Pull out on the **leg angle lock** until it is completely open. Lift the leg up until it stops. This is the leg's widest leg angle position #3 (80°). You can keep the leg at this angle or continue pushing it in until the leg clicks into its next angle #2 (50°). Again, you can stop here or continue on to the first angle position #1 (22°).

Anytime you want to use a smaller leg angle (and are moving to it from a wider leg angle), simply push in on the leg. When you want to open a leg to a wider angle always pull out the **leg angle lock** first.

** Note, before pulling the **leg angle lock** out, you will find it easier to push in on the leg, just slightly, to relieve pressure on the **leg angle lock**.*





Leg Angle
Position #1



Leg Angle
Position #3

EXTENDING AND COLLAPSING THE LEGS

The Chronicle tripod has 4 sections per leg. This means you have 3 extendable leg sections and one fixed section which is connected to the **tripod collar**. All of the legs are keyed, meaning they will not rotate relative to each other. This feature allows you to open or collapse the leg sections in any order. For the best stability it is recommended you open and use the leg sections from biggest (largest diameter) to littlest (smallest diameter). In other words, extend the largest sections first and proceed in descending order.

Wrap your hand around one of the **leg locks** and twist it in a left direction (oriented with the tripod upright and facing you). This will unlock it. 1/4 turn is all that is necessary to unlock each of them. Do not rotate the lock any further. If you rotate a **leg lock** too far, it may become unintentionally disassembled. Once the **leg lock** is unlocked, pull on the leg section(s) below it to extend that leg to the desired length. Then twist the **leg lock** in the opposite direction to tighten it and hold the leg in place. You do not need to apply very much force due to the special design of these locks. Please be sure not to overtighten the **leg locks** or you may have a difficult time opening them later.

As you practice extending the legs you will notice that when the leg is collapsed you can take ahold of just one **leg lock** with your fingers, or as many as all 3 **leg locks** with your entire hand all at once. By taking ahold of all 3 **leg locks** at once and rotating them to an unlocked position, you can quickly open your tripod for use at full height.

You do not need to extend a leg all the way until it stops before tightening a **leg lock**. You can choose to stop the leg anyplace along its length of travel and then tighten the **leg lock** to hold it there.

Leg Locks



CONVERTING TO A HANDHELD STABILIZER

The middle assembly of the Chronicle is called the **Flexor**. The **Flexor** can serve as a handheld stabilizer for your camera or phone, which is particularly helpful when recording video.

With your camera or phone firmly attached to the ball head, turn the **Flexor release knob** counterclockwise 1/2 rotation. Lift the **Flexor** out of the Chronicle's **collar**. Now hold the rig by the round handle which is formed with the 3 legs of the **mini tripod** at the **Flexor's** base in a closed position. You can also hold this rig by the round **Flexor tube** just above the **mini tripod**.

To re-form the complete, full-size tripod, return the **Flexor** by sliding it back into the **tripod collar**. Turn the **Flexor release knob** clockwise until it is tight. Try lifting the **Flexor** and ensure that it does not come out of the **collar**, but rather is securely attached to the main tripod.

*Note: Try holding the **Flexor** with one hand and the **control handle** with your other hand while capturing video. You may find this to be a particularly stable method.*

*Note: The **Flexor release knob** is repositionable. Simply pull outward on the knob and rotate it to the desired resting position and then release it.*



Flexor
Release
Knob



CONVERTING TO A TABLETOP / GROUND-LEVEL TRIPOD

The **Flexor** can function as a tabletop / ground-level tripod for low-angle shots. With your camera or phone firmly attached to the **ball head**, loosen the **Flexor release knob** by turning it counterclockwise 1/2 rotation. Take ahold of the **ball head** and lift the **Flexor** out of the **tripod collar**. Now spread the 3 legs of the **mini tripod** (found at the base of the **Flexor**) to form a tripod. Set this rig down on a table, floor, ground, or whatever surface you wish to use.



CONVERTING TO A MONOPOD

Your Chronicle tripod can be converted to a monopod with either a single foot or with a **3-leg base**. Begin by removing the **Flexor** from the main tripod legs. Loosen the **Flexor release knob** by turning it counterclockwise 1/2 rotation. Take ahold of the **ball head** and lift the **Flexor** out of the **tripod collar**. Remove the **mini tripod / 3-leg base** from the **Flexor tube** by unscrewing it. Now take ahold of the Chronicle's leg which has the **soft grip** and unscrew it from the rest of the tripod. Connect the top of this single leg (the one you just removed) to the bottom of the **Flexor tube** in the same place where the **mini tripod / 3-leg base** was previously attached. You now have a complete monopod with a single foot.

To add a **3-leg base** to the monopod, unscrew the **removable foot** from the monopod's base. You may choose to store this foot in the **3/8"-16 attachment port** in the **tripod collar** or place it in the tripod's fabric bag for safekeeping. Now take ahold of the **mini tripod / 3-leg base** which you previously removed from the **Flexor**. This unit will now serve as a **3-leg base** for the monopod. Connect it to the bottom of the monopod by screwing it into the area from which you just removed the foot. Spread the 3 legs and place the monopod on the ground. Notice the **sliding collar** near the top of the **3-leg base**. Move this **sliding collar** down to hold the monopod upright with only a horizontal panning movement (thereby locking the **ball joint**). Or, move the **sliding collar** up to reveal the **ball joint**, which will allow you to move the monopod around in a variety of angles.



USING THE LEVELS

Your Chronicle tripod has 2 **levels**. Both are bullseye-style levels. One can be found in the **tripod collar**, and the other is found in the top of the **ball head**.

The level in the **collar** is used when setting up the tripod. When the **tripod collar** is level, the tripod is more stable.

The **level** in the top of the **ball head** is used as a compositional aid. It can be used to set the position of the platform for either a camera or a phone. When using a camera it is easier to view this level before connecting the camera to the head.



Level in Collar



Level in Ball Head

REMOVABLE FEET

All three **feet** on the Chronicle tripod are removable. These **removable feet** are connected to the legs of the tripod using a common 3/8"-16 thread. Each foot has a small o-ring in its threads. The o-rings help prevent the **removable feet** from becoming loose unintentionally.

Because this tripod uses a common thread size and pitch, you can remove the included feet and replace them with other, compatible types. The foot on the removable leg of the tripod (this is the leg with the **soft grip**) is particularly important because it can be replaced with the **3-leg base** when the Chronicle is converted to a monopod. The removed foot can be stored in the 3/8"-16 threaded port on the **tripod collar** or in the included fabric bag for safekeeping. You can read more about this in the "Converting to a Monopod" section of this manual.



THREADED ATTACHMENT PORTS

Two, threaded stainless-steel **attachment ports** can be found in the Chronicle's **tripod collar**. Two additional 1/4"-20 **attachment ports** can be found in the **ball head's top platform**.

The **attachment ports** found in the **tripod collar** are the most common sizes used in the photographic industry. One is 1/4"-20 and the other is 3/8"-16. These ports are a great place to attach a grip item such as a flex arm or a articulating arm, which in turn can then be used to hold and position things such as a light, microphone, or other helpful device. The **3/8"-16 attachment port** is also particularly handy for storing one of the Chronicle's feet when it is converted to a monopod with 3-leg base. See the section "Converting to a Monopod" in this manual for more information.

The two ports found in the **ball head's top platform** are useful when it is holding a phone; they are not accessible when the ball head is set to camera mode. These ports can be used for attaching a small accessory such as a cold shoe, and ultimately holding a lightweight light or microphone.



TIPS FOR BEST OPERATION

1) LEAVE ROOM FOR YOUR OWN LEGS

Unless specific terrain dictates otherwise, you should set up your tripod with one leg angled away from you and the other two legs directed to your left and right. This gives you room to stand and operate your camera with less chance of tripping on the tripod.

2) PERIODICALLY CHECK THE GRUB SCREWS

The two grub screws keep the **ball head** securely connected to the **Flexor tube** and prevent these parts from accidentally becoming loose. Check them periodically to be sure the ball head is securely attached to the tube.

3) KEEP THE TRIPOD'S COLLAR LEVEL

Notice the **bullseye level** in the **tripod collar**. This is a valuable tool. Before leveling the **ball head** and camera, you should first make the **collar** of the tripod level during initial setup. Use the Chronicle's independent leg angle adjustments as well as the independently extendable legs to achieve this. It will ensure maximum stability before you mount your camera to the ball head.

*Warning: If the **collar** of the tripod is not set up level, you risk having the tripod (and your camera) fall over.*

4) EXTEND THE THICKEST LEG SECTIONS FIRST

When you are using the Chronicle without all 4 leg sections fully extended, be sure to use the largest legs first and avoid using the thinner leg sections unless necessary. In other words, work your way down from the top of each leg. Using the largest leg sections provides the greatest amount of stability. Extending the top sections first also keeps the rest of the unused sections at the bottom of each leg closest to the ground. This forces more of the tripod's weight into a lower position, which lowers its center of gravity.

5) USE THE PAN LOCK PROPERLY

The **Pan Lock Knob** should either be tightened to lock the panning motion of the ball head, or fully loosened to allow free panning movement. Bear in mind this knob cannot control tension. The panning movement uses a fixed drag only. Do not attempt to control panning tension with this knob or the internal mechanism may become damaged when you attempt to rotate the head.

PRECAUTIONS

- 1) Never attempt to mount a camera and a phone at the same time. Doing so may cause the camera to become disconnected from the Chronicle and fall. The **QR plate** should always be removed from the **ball head** before attempting to convert the tripod to phone mode.
- 2) The Chronicle is not water resistant. Do not submerge it or expose it to heavy rain or snow. If the tripod does get very wet, you may need to disassemble the legs to dry and clean them. Contact customer support at ProMaster for instructions about how to do this properly.
- 3) Never expose the Chronicle to salt water.
- 4) Don't rub it in. When other photographers see you using the Chronicle and appear jealous, please direct them to www.promaster.com or a friendly neighborhood ProMaster retailer so they can enjoy a similar experience.
- 5) Periodically check to ensure various parts of the Chronicle are tight or adjusted properly, such as the grub screws, the control handle, the bolts located at the leg angle joints, and the feet.
- 6) Don't touch the metal parts of the tripod with bare skin in cold temperatures. Wear gloves. A great set of photo gloves can be especially helpful in cold weather.
- 7) Always make sure the **QR plate** is securely attached to your camera before mounting it to the Chronicle.